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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

M. BRIAND AND FREEMASONS

SIR:

In the September issue of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* Stéphane Lauzanne writes: "There is something unheard of for a Government, composed sometimes of atheists or freemasons, to decide whether the merits of a priest do or do not fit him to become a bishop."

The impression conveyed by this sentence is as misleading as it is untrue. No atheist can be a freemason, and history does not furnish an instance when freemasons have ever attempted or desired "to decide whether the merits of a priest do or do not fit him to become a bishop." Freemasonry is too big a thing to concern itself with the promotions of politicians and ecclesiastics.

F. A. HALLENBECK.

Norfolk, Virginia.

[It is quite inconceivable that either M. Briand, who made the remark quoted, or M. Lauzanne, who reported it, or yet this *REVIEW*, which published it, had any thought of conveying the impression which our correspondent has strangely derived from it. Atheists and freemasons were mentioned not for identification with each other, but for contrast, as representing two opposite extremes of non-Catholicism. Precisely so in the very next sentence M. Briand spoke of "a Protestant or a freethinker," with no thought of suggesting that the two are the same. If we spoke of "summer or winter," would our correspondent think that we meant that they were one and the same season? —EDITOR.]

CANADA'S IMMIGRATION POLICY

SIR:

Mr. Hall's article in a recent number of the *REVIEW* will, I am sure, appeal to Canadians who are interested in the building up of their own country, one of the most important and vital factors of which is a sane immigration policy. You have your difficulties in this connection, as we in Canada have ours. As Mr. Hall points out, for years your flow of immigration was stimulated by the steamship companies. Nevertheless the immigrants were quite anxious to be so influenced, and gladly availed themselves of the opportunity which was provided by these companies. These latter only thought, and do so still, in terms of dollars and cents.

The same policy was adopted for a number of years by this country, and a